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C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 002542

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CACEN AND EUR/SNEC  
USNATO FOR UNDERWOOD

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [AM](#) [NATO](#) [AZ](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SCORES ARMENIANS FOR NO-SHOW AT NATO  
SEMINAR

Classified By: DCM A.F.Godfrey for reasons 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) The decision not to send a delegation to NATO's Rose-Roth seminar in Baku was "difficult to understand" and "a mistake" for Armenia." That was the message the Ambassador delivered to Tigran Torosian, Deputy Speaker of Armenia's National Assembly (NA) during a November 26 office call. Torosian told the Ambassador that the decision not to send the delegation was taken primarily by NA Speaker Artur Baghdasarian. Baghdasarian had sent a letter to his counterpart in Baku requesting a personal security guarantee but had received no direct reply. Torosian admitted that Baghdasarian's decision seemed to be based as much on his affront at not receiving a reply as on his concern for the security of the parliamentarians and staffers slated to attend the conference. Torosian also whined about Azeri non-attendance at some earlier events hosted by the National Assembly in Yerevan.

12. (C) The Ambassador pointed out the many steps that the USG and NATO had taken to ensure security of all delegations. Armenia's absence at the conference showed a lack of readiness to engage. The Ambassador suggested that Armenia take prompt steps to remedy this mistake, preferably by Oskanian's agreeing to meet with FM Mammadyarov as soon as possible.

13. (C) Deputy Foreign Minister Tatul Margarian told us November 26 that the Foreign Ministry was not involved in the decision to withhold the delegation; he assumed it was made by Baghdasarian. The Government's readiness in general to engage in Baku was made clear by the attendance of senior GOAM officials in Azerbaijan at recent symposia on energy and transport. He understood how this decision would be taken in Washington, at NATO and elsewhere, and recognized that Armenia had made a misstep.  
EVANS